

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **March 12, 2002**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 19

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

(Confidential)

ITEM TITLE: Amend Sections 12-29 and 12-38 of the City Code to increase the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) bus fares and shorten the retention time for property left on buses.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt an Ordinance amending sections of the City Code to increase the bus fares and shorten the retention time for property left on buses.

SUMMARY:

Please see the attached memorandum from GLTC General Manager Michael J. Carroll regarding the reasoning for the proposed fare increase.

PRIOR ACTION(S):

February 5, 2002: Finance and Planning Committee Review
February 27, 2002: GLTC Public Hearing

FISCAL IMPACT:

For the remainder of FY 2002, the fare increase is projected to generate approximately \$41,000. The proposed fare increase coupled with other adjustments approved by the GLTC Board will remedy a projected FY 2002 shortfall of \$200,000.

CONTACT(S):

Michael J. Carroll, GLTC General Manager 847-5311

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Ordinance
- March 6, 2002, Memorandum from Michael J. Carroll (transcript of public hearing available in the City Manager's Office)

REVIEWED BY:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REENACT SECTIONS 12-29 AND 12-38 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LYNCHBURG, 1981, THE AMENDED SECTIONS RELATING TO BUS FARES AND THE RETENTION OF PROPERTY LEFT ON BUSES.

1. That Sections 12-29 and 12-38 of the Code of the City of Lynchburg, 1981, be and the same are hereby amended and reenacted as follows:

Sec. 12-29. Fares.

Fares to be charged by any person operating buses under the provisions of this article shall be as follows:

Cash fares	1.00	<u>1.25</u>
22-ride ticket	18.00	<u>22.00</u>
School fare during regular and summer session	0.75	<u>1.00</u>
Elderly & handicapped (with GLTC ID card)	0.50	<u>0.60</u>
EZ pass (w/ID card)	5.00	<u>6.00</u>
Monthly passes	25.00	<u>30.00</u>
<u>Transfers</u>		<u>0.10</u>

Existing rules and regulations governing the issuance and use of passes shall continue to be applicable.

Sec. 12-38. Money and other articles left in vehicles.

The person in charge of any vehicle operated under this article shall carefully preserve any money or other property left in such vehicle by any passenger, and the same shall be promptly deposited with the person owning or operating such vehicle to be kept by him at some convenient point within the city, where the same may be called for by the owner. When such money or property shall have been identified and ownership established, the same shall be promptly delivered to such owner. Any property, whether money or other thing, which shall not be called for within ~~three (3) months~~ ten (10) days, shall be disposed of according to law.

2. That this ordinance shall become effective April 1, 2002.

Adopted:

Certified:

Clerk of Council

042L



Memo

To: L. Kimball Payne, City Manager
 From: Michael J. Carroll, General Manager
 CC: GLTC Board of Directors
 Date: March 7, 2002
 Re: Information for Council Report on Fare Increase

Background: As of today, I am projecting a shortfall of approximately \$200,000 by the end of the fiscal year. The shortfall is due to passenger fare revenue falling below budgeted amounts.

Strategies: The GLTC Board approved a series of measures to eliminate this deficit:

- Reduce and realign routes to save approximately 20 hours of service per weekday (primarily by eliminating the current Routes 7 and 10, and consolidating them into a new Route 7);
- Eliminate bus service on Memorial Day;
- Increase fares;
- Capitalize operating expenses in the maintenance budget;
- Seek additional State aid for training and travel expenses;
- Cut operating expenses, primarily in diesel fuel and advertising; and,
- Utilize the remainder of the GLTC "Strategic Reserve".

One measure, which by code, requires Council approval, is a proposed fare increase of 25%. The City Attorney has prepared a revised code for this change. Under this proposal, fares will change as follows:

	Current Fare	Proposed Fare
Base Fare	\$1.00	\$1.25
Reduced Fare for Elderly and Disabled	\$0.50	\$0.60
Paratransit Fare	\$2.00	\$2.50
Monthly Pass (unlimited rides)	\$25.00	\$30.00
22-Ride Ticket	\$18.00	\$22.00
Student Fare	\$0.75	\$1.00
Transfers	Free	\$0.10
"EZ" Pass (requires reduced fare ID)	\$5.00	\$6.00

As required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), GLTC held a public hearing on the proposed fare increase on February 27, 2002. Thirteen citizens attended, and voiced their concerns (a copy of the transcript is attached). GLTC last increased fares in 1995 (base fare went from \$0.75 to \$1.00) and again in 1996 (monthly pass went from \$20.00 to \$25.00). The proposed fare increase will place Lynchburg on par with Roanoke, Richmond and Norfolk-Hampton, all of

which have a base fare of \$1.25. For a monthly pass holder (representing approximately ½ of GLTC's boardings), the proposed increase will cost him/her \$0.16 per day.

Failure to approve a fare increase will require GLTC to seek additional operating funds from the City (approximately \$42,000) or GLTC would have to further reduce service (most likely, eliminate all Sunday transit service). Furthermore, GLTC's FY03 budget is based upon the proposed fare increase. Failure to approve the increase prior to July 1, 2002, would also require additional City funds or service cuts in FY03.

As a final note: I will be in Washington, D.C, meeting with our Congressional delegation, during the Council Meeting. Therefore, Mr. Kelvin Miller, the Assistant General Manager, will attend the March 12th Council Meeting. As always, please contact me if you have any questions or require additional